

FCC Commissioners:

Regarding the proposed changes to the amateur licensing and band structure, I support dropping the initial Morse requirement for what would become the 'new' Technician class license.

In essence, the notion that Morse 'keeps out the bad' or lends to the superiority of the hobby is, in all probability, false. Enough enforcement action and abuse has been noted in the HF bands. Abuse and misuse is certainly not restricted to 6m at above. Instead, opening up HF to existing Tech-class ticket holders will let them expand into new areas and then decide if the investment in time and money to advance into more HF bands is worth while. In essence, the proposal to give Tech-class hams a "taste" of HF is probably a great way to get and keep more hams interested in the hobby.

The idea that "HF is global, VHF is not" is also certainly a fallacy, but an oft-used one by the pro-Morse camp. With 5 watts of power on 2 meters I can bounce signals off several amateur satellites and establish contact with vast parts of the globe. With practice and perseverance, I have been able to use 6 meter and even 2 meter to make contacts over thousands of miles, sometimes into different countries (and in one case, the opposite hemisphere!). Morse does not prove that we represent the hobby or the nation any better than a ham without a Morse endorsement.

In essence, Morse is a false door, constructed by the 'old guard' to force the new guard to somehow or another 'prove' themselves. I feel that I, like thousands of other Tech-class hams, have proven myself, both technically and ethically, capable of using HF bands to reach out to a greater community of amateur radio enthusiasts.

Thank you,

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